

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 A-01
OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 MCT-01
SY-05 ACDA-07 DHA-02 USSS-00 /092 W
-----290335Z 017573 /62

O P 281225Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 561
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 2918

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (GARBLED THROUGH OUT TEXT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL SITUATION

REF: KARACHI 1442 (NOTAL), LAHORE 278 (NOTAL),

SUMMARY:
PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO BEGAN HIS SECOND TERM OF OFFICE
MARCH 28 WITH A RENEWAL OF HIS CALL TO THE OPPOSITION TO ENTER A
DIALOGUE. HE DECLARED HIMSELF PREPARED TO CONSIDER LIFTING PAK-
ISTAN'S EMERGENCY IF THE OPPOSITION WOULD ACT RESPONSIBLY AND
ASSUME NORMAL FUNCTIONS BY ENTERING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
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MEANWHILE, PROCESSIONS, DISTRUBACNCES AND ARREST
CONTINUE IN THE PUNJAB. THE PNA GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLVED MARCH 27
THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS ILLEGAL AND NO FUTURE GOVERNMENT
WILL HAVE TO ABIDE BY ITS LAWS OR ACTS. CURFEW CONTINUES IN
PARTS OF KARACHI WHERE SITUATION SEEMS AS NORMAL AS REMAINING
CURFEW PERMITS. END SUMMARY.

1. ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO WAS SWORN IN MARCH 28 FOR HIS SECOND TERM AS PRIME MINISTER IN THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, PRINCIPAL GOP OFFICIALS, SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, AND PPP AND TRIBAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. IN HIS LENGTHY INAUGURATION SPEECH THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED HIS EARLIER OFFER OF DIALOGUE TO THE OPPOSITION, BUT ADDED ONE IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT. HE DECLARED THAT IF THE OPPOSITION IS PREPARED TO ENTER SERIOUS DIALOGUE AND ASSUME ITS NORMAL FUNCTION BY ENTERING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HE IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER LIFTING PAKISTAN'S EMERGENCY. THIS WOULD ENTAIL NOT ONLY THE RELEASE OF PERSONS ARRESTED IN RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT, ACCORDING TO THE PN, THOSE ARRESTED UNDER THE DEFENSE OF PAKISTAN RULES AND ORDINANCE AS WELL. IN ADDITION TO HIS DISCUSSION OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONFRONTATION, BHUTTO ALSO DEALT WITH FOREIGN POLICY AND ECONOMIC THEMES. THESE WILL BE COVERED IN SEPTELS.

2. SITUATION IN PUNJAB IS STILL PUNCTUATED WITH PROCESSIONS, DISTRUBANCES, AND ARRESTS. CONGEN LAHORE REPORTS TWO PNA PROCESS-IONS IN LAHORE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 27 WHICH WERE BROKEN UP WITH LATHI CHARGE AND TEAR GAS AND RESULTED IN ARRESTS OF ELEVEN LOCAL PNA LEADERS AND WORKERS. SIZE OF DEMONSTRATIONS WAS SMALL, THOUGH EXACT NUMBER OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IS UNKNOWN. URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAGT OF MARCH 28 REPORTED DISTURBANCES IN KAMOKE, NEAR GUJRANWALLA, (BROKEN UP BY POLICE LATHI CHARGE), KHANEWAL (COMPLETE HARTAL AFTER DEATH OF A STUDENT FROM POLICE FIRING MARCH 26) AND PROCESSIONS/ARRESTS IN SOME OTHER TOWNS. WOMEN REPORTEDLY MARCHED IN PROTEST AT VARIOUS PLACES. AT SUMUNDRI, NEAR LYALLPUR, A PEACEFUL PNA PROCESSION WAS REPORTEDLY FIRED ON BY ARMED PPP SUPPORTERS; 26 PEOPLE WERE INJURED. NAWA--

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I-WAGT REPORTS MARCH 28 THAT 21 OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE ARRESTED AS A RESULT. IN KASUR, NEAR LAHORE, POLICE ARRESTED 61 PNA WORKERS MARCH 27 AFTER A CLASH THE PREVIOUS DAY IN WHICH DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OF KASUR AND TEN POLICE CONSTABLES WERE INJURED BY STONING. NO INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ABOUT STATUS OF ARMY INTERVENTION IN MULTAN AND KHANEWAL. THE ARMY REMAINS ENCAMPED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN LAHORE, BUT IS NO LONGER PATROLLING THE STREETS. MEANWHILE, COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OPENINGS IN PUNJAB HAVE BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

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SCA-01 MCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-07 DHA-02 USSS-00 /092 W
-----281405Z 008411 /45

O P 281225Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 562
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3. PNA GENERAL COUNCIL MET IN LAHRE MARCH 27 AND PASSED A
RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS ILLEGAL.
ANY LEGISLATION PASSED OR ACTIONS TAKEN BY IT WILL NOT BE
RECOGNIZED AND NO FUTURE GOVERNMENT WILL BE BOUND BY THEM. THE
GENERAL COUNCIL REPORTEDLY WILL FORM AN ACTION COMMITTEE
CONSISTING OF LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL SECTIONS OF
SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPPOSITION STRUGGLE.

4. CONGEN KARACHI REPORTS THE PROGRESSIVE RELAXATION OF THE
CURFEW. AS OF LATE MORNING MARCH 28, CONDITIONS IN THE CITY
ARE AS NORMAL AS THE REMAINING CURFEW PERMITS. KARACHI PRESS
REPORTS THE PNA PLANS FIVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CITY
MARCH 28. MARCH 27 WAS QUIET, THE ONLY DEMONSTRATION TAKING
PLACE IN THE BURNS ROAD AREA, FOLLOWED BY THE THROWING OF
A FEW STONES AT POLICE BY A FEW PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE
STREET SPEECH. A FEW ARREST RESULTED. CURFEW LIFTED IN
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LANDHI/KORANGI AS OF MARCH 28, CURFEW STILL IN FORCE IN DRIGH
COLONY AND KARACHI WEST, BUT HAS BEEN LIFTED MARCH 28 FROM
0530 TO 0900, AND 1500 TO 1900.

5. ELSEWHERE IN SIND, PNA ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR DEMONSTRATION
IN BYDERABAD MARCH 28. ON MARCH 27 A LARGE PROCESSION OF
WOMEN DISPERSED PEACEFULLY ON REQUEST. (PNA WOMEN PARADED
MARCH 26 IN BYDRABAD TO SHAME SHOPKEEPERS INTO JOINING THE

HARTAL.) SEVERAL BOMB BLASTS, BUT NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED IN HYDERABAD ON MARCH 26.

6. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED KARACHI CONSULATE GENERAL'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE HARTALS THERE AND IN HYDERABAD WERE LARGELY SUCCESSFUL (ISLAMABAD 2893). THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS SINCE PASSED WORD TO US THAT THE HARTAL IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY SUCCESSFUL IN SOME OF THE SMALLER CITIES AND TOWNS OF SIND INCLUDING NAWABSHAH, MIRPU KHAS, TANDO ADAM, JACOBABAD AND SHAHDADPUR. THE CONGEN COMMENTS THAT THIS SUGGESTS EVEN MORE THOROUGH ORGANIZATION OF THE MARCH 26 HARTAL THAN OF PREVIOUS WORK STOPPAGES.
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